

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (AMENDED) A manipulative toy configured in the shape of an animal having a head, tail, arms, legs or wings comprising:

a body configured in the shape of an animal, said body having a front, back and sides and further having an outer surface and a plurality of planar surfaces disposed thereon ~~on the sides thereof~~, said planar surfaces being recessed below the said outer surface of said body and bounded on ~~the~~ an upper portion thereof by an arcuate ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal;

a plurality of appendages each having at least one planar surface disposed at an end thereof, said planar ~~surface~~ surfaces on said ~~appendage~~ appendages corresponding to said planar ~~surface~~ surfaces on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal, wherein said arcuate ridge does not completely encircle said planar surfaces such that a lower portion of said planar surface meets said outer surface to thereby facilitate attachment and removal of said appendages;

means disposed on both said body and said ~~at least one appendage~~ appendages for removably attaching said ~~appendage~~ appendages to said body at said ~~respective~~ planar surfaces, wherein said ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said ~~appendage~~ appendages attached to said body; and

means for limiting rotational and linear movement of said ~~appendage~~ appendages relative to said body.

2. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said ~~appendage~~ appendages to said body comprises a pair of complementary magnetic elements, said complementary magnetic elements being disposed within said planar surfaces of said body and said appendage.

3. (ORIGINAL) The interactive manipulative toy of claim 2, wherein said complementary magnetic elements are Nd-Fe-B magnets.

4. (AMENDED) The interactive manipulative toy of claim 3, wherein said means for limiting movement comprises a pair of complementary ribbed elements disposed on each of said planar surfaces, wherein said ribbed elements frictionally engage each other when said ~~appendage is~~ appendages are attached to said body.

5. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 4, wherein said ribbed elements comprise a plurality of raised ribs disposed in a circular configuration about said magnetic elements.

6. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 5, wherein said ~~ribbed elements~~ ribs are approximately .75 millimeters wide and 0.75 millimeters deep, and are 24 in number.

7. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 5, wherein the diameter of said circular configuration of said ~~ribbed elements~~ ribs is approximately 9.75 millimeters.

8. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 7, wherein said planar surfaces are roughly circular in area.

9. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 8, wherein the diameter of said planar ~~surface~~ surfaces on said body is are approximately 21 millimeters, and the diameter of said planar surface on said ~~appendage~~ appendages are approximately 19 millimeters.

10. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 9, wherein said ~~ribbed elements~~ ribs disposed on said ~~appendage~~ appendages are beveled and raised above said planar surface on said appendage, and wherein said ~~ribbed elements~~ ribs disposed on said body is are beveled and recessed below said planar surface on said body such that said beveled ~~ribbed elements~~ ribs are complementary to each other to thereby allow said ~~ribbed elements~~ ribs to frictionally engage each other when said ~~appendage~~ appendages are attached to said body.

11. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said ridge is configured so as to resemble a shoulder of said animal such that attachment of said ~~leg or wing to said~~ appendage appendages is lifelike in appearance.

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein ~~at least one appendage~~ said appendages and said body are composed of a rigid plastic material.

14. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said body and said ~~at least one appendage~~ appendages are molded of plastic and having a design to simulate an animal.

15. (AMENDED) A manipulative toy comprising:
a body configured in the shape of an animal having a head, tail, arms, legs or wings, said body having a front, back and sides an outer surface and further including a plurality of planar surfaces disposed thereon ~~on the sides thereof~~, said planar surfaces being recessed below the surface of said body and bounded on ~~the~~ an upper portion thereof by an arcuate ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of said head, tail, arms, legs or wings ~~the arms, legs or wings~~ of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal;

a plurality of appendages each having at least one roughly circular planar surface disposed at the end thereof, said planar ~~surface~~ surfaces on said ~~appendage~~ appendages corresponding to said planar ~~surface~~ surfaces on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal, wherein said arcuate ridge does not

completely encircle said planar surfaces such that a lower portion of said planar surface meets said outer surface to thereby facilitate attachment and removal of said appendages;

means disposed on both said body and said ~~at least one appendage~~ appendages for removably attaching said ~~appendage~~ appendages to said body at said ~~respective~~ planar surfaces, said means comprising a pair of complementary magnetic elements, said complementary magnetic elements being disposed within said planar surfaces of said body and said appendage, wherein said ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said ~~appendage~~ appendages attached to said body; and

means for limiting the rotational and linear movement of said ~~appendage~~ appendages relative to said body, said means comprising a pair of complementary ribbed elements disposed on each of said planar surfaces, wherein said ribbed elements frictionally engage each other when said ~~appendage is~~ appendages are attached to said body, wherein said ribbed elements comprise a plurality of raised ribs disposed in a circular configuration about said magnetic elements.

16. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 15, wherein said ~~ribbed elements~~ ribs disposed on said ~~appendage~~ appendages are beveled and raised above said planar surface on said appendage, and wherein said ~~ribbed elements~~ ribs disposed on said body are beveled and recessed below said planar surface of said body such that said beveled ~~ribbed elements~~ ribs are complementary to each other to thereby allow said ~~ribbed elements~~ ribs to frictionally engage each other when said ~~appendage is~~ appendages are attached to said body.

17. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 15, wherein said body includes an outer surface and wherein said planar ~~surface~~ surfaces on said body is are recessed below the outer surface of said body, said recess being bounded on the upper portion thereof by a ridge.

18. (CANCELLED)

19. (AMENDED) A method for inspiring imagination and creativity using manipulative toys formed in the shape of various animals, said method comprising the steps of:

providing at least two manipulative toys configured in the shape of an animal having a head, tail, arms, legs or wings, each comprising:

a body configured in the shape of an animal, said body having a front, back and sides and further having a plurality of planar surfaces disposed on the sides thereof, said planar surfaces being recessed below the surface of said body and bounded on the upper portion thereof by an arcuate ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal;

a plurality of appendages each having at least one planar surface disposed at an end thereof, said planar ~~surface~~ surfaces on said ~~appendage~~ appendages corresponding to said planar ~~surface~~ surfaces on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape

of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal, wherein said arcuate ridge does not completely encircle said planar surfaces such that a lower portion of said planar surface meets said outer surface to thereby facilitate attachment and removal of said apendages;

means disposed on both said body and said ~~at least one appendage~~ appendages for removably attaching said ~~appendage~~ appendages to said body at said respective planar surfaces, wherein said ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said ~~appendage~~ appendages attached to said body; and

means for limiting rotational and linear movement of said ~~appendage~~ appendages relative to said body; and

interchanging said appendages from said toys so as to create one or more fanciful creatures.